

Government, Administration and Elections Committee
Feb. 13, 2015
Testimony of James H. Smith, President
Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information

S.B. 27 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE INTERNET PUBLICATION OF VOTER INFORMATION.

Sen. Cassano, Rep. Jutila, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Smith, and committee members. The Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information is a nonprofit in its 60th year advocating for open government for the people. I am James H. Smith, CCFOI president. We oppose Senate Bill 27.

The legislation is quite simply an unconstitutional prior restraint on the press in violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 5 of the Connecticut Constitution: "No law shall ever be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech or of the press."

In our democracy only a voter's ballot is secret. Everything else about American voting, whether for dog catcher or for president, is and must remain open if we are to remain a democratic society.

Thank you.